



## AV1900 RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM POLICY

### 1.0 PURPOSE

To ensure Interior Health (IH) workers are provided with appropriate respiratory protection, education, and training when required.

### 2.0 DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Airborne Contaminants</b>	A harmful, irritating, or nuisance material in the air, usually occurring in the form of a dust, mist, fume, gas, or vapor which could enter the respiratory tract and, upon exposure, may result in an adverse health effect. For the purpose of this policy, airborne contaminants include bio aerosols.
<b>Hierarchy of Controls</b>	The hierarchy of controls is a process of considering hazard control with consideration given first to the most effective and dependable control methods. The most effective control is to eliminate the hazard. Where elimination is not possible, substituting a less hazardous method or material is considered. Isolation of the hazard is then considered. Next engineering controls are considered, followed by administrative controls to change the way work is organized. Personal protective equipment is the least dependable method of control.
<b>Respiratory Protection</b>	A device that is tested and certified by procedures established by testing and certification agencies recognized by the authority having jurisdiction and is used to protect the user from inhaling an airborne contaminant. The most common types of respirators used in health care facilities are tight fitting N95 FFR or 95PFE (disposable) Respirators, Elastomeric (reusable) Respirators, and loose fitting Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPR).
<b>Respiratory Protection Program</b>	The program that defines roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and includes components such as hazard assessment, respirator selection including limitations, training requirements, respirator fit testing, appropriate procedures for cleaning, inspecting, and storing respirators, program evaluation, and recordkeeping to ensure adequate protection of all workers who may be exposed to airborne contaminants, where there is no possibility of implementing more effective controls according to the hierarchy of controls.
<b>Workers</b>	Refers to all IH employees (union and excluded), medical practitioners, students and/or contractors.
<b>Workplace</b>	Refers to all IH owned or operated facilities / sites, and synonymous with the term “workplaces” as defined by the British Columbia Workers Compensation Act, Part 2: <i>“Any place where a worker is or is likely to be engaged in any work and includes any vessel, vehicle, or mobile equipment used by a worker in work.”</i>

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Policy Steward: Corporate Director, Workplace Health & Safety	
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### 3.0 POLICY

IH will provide a safe workplace by eliminating or reducing the risk of exposure to airborne contaminants through the use of the hierarchy of controls.

If elimination of the hazard is not possible, substitution with less hazardous products will be the first consideration followed by engineering controls such as dilution ventilation or dedicated exhaust. Administrative controls will then be explored to change the work processes to reduce the hazards associated with exposure to airborne contaminants.

When engineering and /or administrative control measures are not practicable, respiratory protection is to be provided with training and used by the worker according to their training.

All workers are expected to participate fully in the provincial [Respiratory Protection Program](#) which outlines the necessary responsibilities, procedures, training, use and maintenance of respirators to ensure the health and safety of all workers when utilizing respiratory protection against airborne contaminants.

### 4.0 RELATED POLICIES AND TOOLS

1. [AV0100](#) – Occupational Health and Safety Program

### 5.0 REFERENCES

This Policy (AV1900) and the [Respiratory Protection Program](#) (and any associated forms/tools/documentation) complies with requirements presented in:

1. The Occupational Health & Safety Regulation (OHSR) (WorkSafeBC)
  - a. [Part 5 Chemical Agents & Biological Agents, 5.48 - 5.59](#)
  - b. Part 8 Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment
    - i. General Requirements
      1. OHSR Section [8.5 Program](#)
      2. OHSR Section [8.6 Annual review](#)
    - ii. Respirators
      1. OHSR Sections [8.32 - 8.45](#)
  - c. The WorkSafeBC [Guidelines](#) associated with respiratory protection
2. Standard Z94.4 -18: Selection, Use, and Care of Respirators (Canadian Standards Association)

**Note:** Where there is a discrepancy between the requirements outlined by “1” and “2” above, the Workplace Health & Safety Department will default to the requirement that meets WorkSafeBC regulatory compliance expectations.

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